CLAIMS

1. A method for issuing a parental monitoring query command for determining a media object being rendered on a remote device, comprising the steps of:

transmitting a query (615) requesting identification information for a media object being received on a remote device;

receiving information (660) in response to said query, wherein said information indicates a multicast address and port which is used to multicast said media object; and

resolving said multicast address and port information (675, 680) to identify attributes of said media object.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said query is issued by a monitoring device, and said media object is rendered on said monitoring device.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said monitoring device joins a multicast group using said received multicast address and port information to receive said media object.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said monitoring device issues a command to kill the receipt of said media object by said remote device.

5. The method of Claim 2, wherein said monitoring device is an Internet Protocol (IP) enabled set top box.

6. The method of Claim 2, wherein said monitoring device uses a channel list that maps said multicast address and port to a channel.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein a program guide is used to select media objects transmitted via a multicast media object corresponding to said channel.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said media object is transmitted as part of an Internet Group Management (IGMP) compatible protocol multicasting service and program identification information is available for said media object as part of a Session Description (SDP) compatible protocol.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said resolving step uses IGMP data obtained from a middleware server.

10. The method of Claim 1, where said query additional comprises:

requesting a browser history log file, wherein said log file comprises the IP addresses of media objects accessed by said remote device.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said remote device is a personal computer.

12. An apparatus for issuing a parental monitoring query command for determining a media object being rendered on a remote device, comprising:

a network interface (79) that issues a query requesting identification information for a media object being received on a remote device;

a transport decoder (13) that processes information in response to said query, wherein said information indicates a multicast address and port which is used to multicast said media object; and

a data transport decoder (22) that resolves said multicast address and port information to identify attributes of said media object.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12 said media object is rendered on said apparatus.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said apparatus joins a multicast group using said received multicast address and port information to receive said media object.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein said apparatus issues a command to kill the receipt of said media object by said remote device.

17. The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said apparatus uses a channel list that maps said multicast address and port to a channel.

18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein a program guide is used to select media objects transmitted via a multicast media object corresponding to said channel.

19. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said media object is transmitted as part of an Internet Group Management (IGMP) compatible protocol multicasting service and program identification information is available for said media object as part of a Session Description (SDP) compatible protocol.

20. The apparatus of Claim 12, where said query additional comprises:

requesting a browser history log file, wherein said log file comprises the IP addresses of media objects accessed by said remote device.